

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A symmetrical, hand-held trackball pointing device for interchangeable use ~~by right handed and left handed users~~ in either a right hand or a left hand of a user, comprising:

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a) a symmetrical housing adapted and configured to fit interchangeably into a user's right or left hand proximate the metacarpal (i.e., first phalangeal) region of the fingers thereof, said housing being adapted for retention in said user's hand between said metacarpal regions and a palm thereof by no more than a thumb thereof, thereby freeing portions of said fingers beyond said metacarpal regions for tasks unrelated to said pointing device;

*a top curved finger operatively connected with the near curved finger 7*

b) a trackball disposed <sup>in</sup> said housing and adapted and configured for interaction with the thumb of said hand of said user, and adapted for generating a trackball signal representative of a position thereof;

c) at least one switch disposed in said housing and adapted for manipulative interaction with said metacarpal region of a finger of said hand of said user, said at least one switch producing a switch signal representative of the state of said at least one switch;

d) circuitry disposed within said housing and operatively connected to said track ball element and said at least one switch and adapted to receive at least said trackball signal and said switch signal, and generate an output signal representative of at least one of said trackball signal and said switch signal; and

e) means for communicating operatively connected to said circuitry and adapted to communicate said output signal to an external device;